

in some other names subsequently adopted by Sir Andrew, instead of those originally given, and left them in for identification. *Eupodotis ruficrista* I had from many places within my limits, though beyond the Orange River. *Passer motitensis*, only found by Sir Andrew sixty miles north of the River, is certainly, taking his route, well within the limits. *Hyphantornis tahatali*, he says, occurs "between the Orange River and the tropic," and *Schizærhis concolor* "inland from Port Natal."

Looking at all these facts, we decided upon keeping them in my catalogue; I must plead guilty to the omission of the explanation which ought to have been given.

But my aim, with all my shortcomings, has been accomplished. An impetus has been given to South-African ornithology; the many letters I have received from friends and strangers assure me of this; and already many ornithologists in England and elsewhere, who barely knew that any birds existed in South Africa (!), are looking us up and, I doubt not, will do good service. I trust that an occasional page will be granted me in 'The Ibis;' and I will duly chronicle all the novelties that come to hand, and the corrections that should be made; and I will not spare my own bantling.

VII.—The Malurinæ of North-eastern Africa.

By Dr. M. T. VON HEUGLIN*.

(Plates I.–III.)

The North-east African *Malurinæ*, among which I include the genera *Aedon*, *Bradypterus*, *Catruscus*, *Oligocercus*, and *Camaroptera*, are for the most part inhabitants of the tropical regions of the continent. In Egypt and Northern Nubia, southward to the limit of rain, there are only *Drymæca cisticola*, *D. gracilis*, *Aedon galactodes*, and *Bradypterus cettii*, and in Arabia Petræa the somewhat aberrant *Drymæca inquieta*. Southward from lat. 18° N., *Oligocercus* and *Camaroptera* make their appearance, as also tolerably numerous species of typical forms (*Drymæca*), and in the western district of the country about the sources of the Nile the genus *Catruscus*.

* Translated by W. S. Dallas, F.L.S. &c.

Many species ascend, in the Abyssinian highlands, up to 10,000 feet above the level of the sea; one (*Drymæca rufifrons*) is known exclusively as an inhabitant of the coast-country of the Red Sea.

Respecting the geographical distribution of the North-east African forms in general, trustworthy evidence is wanting to me as regards most of them. *Drymæca cisticola* extends westwards as far as the Gulf of Guinea; eastwards it inhabits most of the warmer parts of Asia. *D. gracilis* occurs also in Syria, Asia Minor, and, according to Mr. Blyth, in India; and *D. rufifrons*, according to M. du Chaillu, on the Gaboon.

All the species of *Drymæca* particularly observed by me appear not to migrate, and they usually live together in pairs and families within small districts, which they seem to quit unwillingly. Their favourite dwelling-place is amongst bushes such as acacias, and other spiny shrubs, and the dry tall grasses of the steppes; some appear to prefer the banks of the torrents to every other locality; and only a few are inhabitants of the marsh-country and larger reed-forests. They fly unwillingly and not far, but show great dexterity in climbing, and slip as nimbly as mice through the thickets. They rarely come down upon the ground, and then only for a short time. Their food, I believe, consists exclusively of insects and their larvæ and eggs. Most of them are remarkably fine singers. The song and mode of life generally somewhat resemble those of the Reed-Warblers. What I had the opportunity of observing with regard to their reproduction is cited under the different species.

The discrimination and settlement of the species was no easy task; and I regard the following memoir only as more or less incomplete, inasmuch as I had not the necessary number of specimens for comparison, and also wanted many of the most nearly allied species from West and South Africa, in order to be able to decide as to the identity or non-identity of some of the species. Several remarkably nearly allied forms I have thought it necessary to separate provisionally as species.

Some naturalists have attempted to split the genus *Drymæca* into various subordinate divisions, such as *Cisticola*, *Hemipteryx*, and so on. A generic division of the African forms

belonging to this group can, however, hardly be effected ; notwithstanding the differences in the size and form of the bill, and of the rectrices, and the variations in the proportions of the toes, all show a remarkable agreement in their general type, as also in their mode of life.

GENUS CATRISCUS.

1. CATRISCUS APICALIS (Licht.) ; Cabanis, Mus. Hein. i. p. 43, note ; *Sphenæacus alexinae*, Hengl., Journ. für Orn. 1863, p. 166.

Supra fuscescens cinnamomeus, occipite magis olivaceo ; supracaudalibus purius fusco-tinctis ; subtus sordide albidus, lateribus colli et pectoris, cruribus et regione anali ex olivascens rufo indutis ; remigibus pallide fumosis, notæi colore marginatis ; rectricibus et subcaudalibus fuliginoso-fuscis, apice lato et conspicue squamatis fulvescente albido marginatis, his spadiceo adumbratis ; subalaribus albidis ; maxilla nigricans, mandibula fulvescente cerina ; iride umbrina ; pedibus fulvis roseo lavatis.

Long. tot. 5" 9^{'''}, rostr. a fr. 4¹/₂"^{'''}, al. 2" 1^{'''}, caud. 3" 1^{'''}, tars. 7¹/₄"^{'''}, dig. med. cum ung. 8¹/₂"^{'''}.*

The only bird of this species that I obtained in Central Africa, and the sex of which could not be determined with certainty†, was stated by Herr O. Finsch to be perfectly identical with the South-African *Catrisca apicalis*. On comparison with Lichtenstein's original specimen, however, many not unimportant differences present themselves. It is decidedly smaller than the South-African bird ; the rectrices are broader and darker-coloured ; the difference in length between the second and third remiges is more considerable ; the fourth, fifth, and sixth remiges are the longest, and nearly equal in length ; the first is half as long as the fourth.

The bill of this well-marked form is shorter and stronger than in the Reed-Warblers, rather somewhat laterally compressed than depressed, but slightly curved, with a scarcely perceptible notch at the rather sharp point ; between the eye and the

* Throughout this paper the measurements will be given in French inches, 1' = 12" ; 1" = 12^{'''}.

† [In the author's original description of this specimen (J. f. O. loc. cit.) it is marked " ♀ ".—ED.]

nostril there spring on each side two strong rictal bristles; the middle toe, with the claw, is rather longer than the tarsus; the feet are powerful, the claws moderately long, but fine and acute; the hind claw is as long as the hind toe itself; the wings are round, not very short, but only passing the root of the tail by a few lines. The tail in this genus is most remarkably developed, with a broad uropygium, exceedingly broad and soft and somewhat dishevelled coverts, and long, very broad, graduated, and fan-like rectrices.

This bird lives in the widely extended and almost impassable deserts at the parent-lake of the Gazelle River; I only saw it there very rarely, as it is unwilling to quit its retreat, climbs about among the reeds like a Reed-Warbler, and endeavours to conceal itself in them. Its peculiar note, distantly resembling the piping of *Argya acaciæ*, set me on the track of this graceful creature; but it was only after days of exertion that I succeeded in killing the specimen described, which was flying at a short distance, with its tail depressed and expanded, over a thicket of rushes. It fell into a thicket where the water was scarcely a foot deep; I had marked the place accurately, and with my pocket-knife I cut down the sedges as carefully as possible, over a space of several fathoms square, a work which took me nearly two hours, and in which night just surprised me, as I at last discovered my rare prize. In the stomach I found small midges.

Found also in South Africa.

GENUS BRADYPTERUS, Swainson.

2. BRADYPTERUS CETTI (Marm.), Cab., Mus. Hein. i. p. 43.

Occurs in Egypt according to Keyserling and Blasius, but not collected by me, though I remember having frequently in the spring seen in the Delta and near Cairo a bird probably belonging to this species, especially in cornfields and reed-thickets. A note in my note-book runs as follows:—"11 March, 1852. Two *Sylvia* seen, one of them ferruginous brown with a graduated tail (*S. cettii*?), the other more of the colour of *Aedon galactodes*, but much smaller, near Berēs̄sch (Lower Egypt)."

Found also in Algeria (Loche, Tristram).

3. BRADYPTERUS CINNAMOMEUS (Rüpp.).

Sylvia cinnamomea, Rüpp., N. Wirbelth. Taf. 42, fig. 1.
Salicaria cinnamomea, Id., Syst. Uebers. No. 125, b. *Calamoherpe cinnamomea*, Bp., Consp. Av. i. p. 286; Heugl., Syst. Uebers. No. 188.

Ex olivaceo rufo-umbrinus, subtus pallidior, magis olivaceo-fulvus, gula et abdomine medio albicantibus; pileo, nucha et regione parotica olivaceo-cano lavatis; stria supraoculari alteraque infraoculari et ciliis fulvescente albidis; macula obsoleta anteoculari nigricante; scapis regionis paroticæ ex parte albidis; remigibus fumosis, dorsi colore marginatis; alis brevibus rotundatis; cauda longa, valde graduata dorso concolore at ex parte ferrugineo tincto et delicate fasciolato; scapis rectricum fuscis; rostro nigricante corneo, pedibus cerino corneis; iride pallide umbrina.

Long. tot. 6", rostr. a fr. $5\frac{1}{4}'''$ – $5\frac{1}{8}'''$, al. 2" 3'''–2" 6'', caud. 2" 5'''–2" 9'', tars. $10'''$ – $10\frac{1}{2}'''$.

This species comes nearest to the South-African *Bradypterus brachypterus* (*Sylvia brachyptera*, Vieill.), with which it agrees in the slender bill, general coloration, the structure of the wings and tail, as also in the soft dishevelled plumage. But in the Abyssinian species the tail is still more graduated, and the tail-coverts shorter. The first primary of the short, much rounded, wings is about half as long as the fifth to tenth inclusive, which are the longest; the fourth a little shorter than the fifth; the second is somewhat shorter than the longest cubital remiges. The feet are stouter than in *S. brachyptera*, and the bill a little shorter and stronger. One specimen has more of a rusty-yellow tint than that described.

As we ascend the high Alps of Semien, the Guna, or the plateaux of Begemeda, Lasta, and the Galla country, the wanderer is greeted from a blooming bush of roses or *Hypericum*, or from a thicket of *Erica* hung with long grey beards of lichen, by the far-resounding, metallic-ringing song of this little bird, which appears to be a permanent resident in Abyssinia; at least we found it from December to the beginning of the summer rains. It lives, by preference, concealed in sunny bushy slopes, and in the bushes along icy torrents, in which it glides to and fro like a Willow-Wren. It more rarely

comes on the ground, but, when it does, hops about with elevated tail, catching insects. Its manners and movements much resemble those of the Nightingale, but especially remind me of *Aedon galactodes*. The pairing-time appears to occur in January or February; the male then sings diligently, often until far into the night, and begins again long before day-light, even when the Alpine vegetation is covered far and wide with frost and ice.

It appears to be very nearly allied to *Phlexis layardi*, Hartlaub (Ibis, 1866, p. 139, pl. vi.).

To *Bradypterus* belong also *Cettia africana*, Bp., *Bradypterus brevirostris*, Sund. (Efv. 1850, p. 103), and *Salicaria affinis*, Hodgs., all unknown to me.

Genus AEDON, Boie.

4. AEDON GALACTODES (Temm.).

Sylvia galactodes, Temm. *Turdus arundinaceus*, var. β , Lath. *T. rubiginosus*, Meyer. *Aedon familiaris*, Ménétr. *A. minor*, Cab., Mus. Hein. i. p. 39; Rüpp., Syst. Ueb. No. 125, c; Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 219; *Id.*, Faun. Roth. Meer, No. 67, Brehm, Habesch, p. 289; Hartm., J. f. O. 1863, p. 232; A. v. Homeyer, *ibid.* 1863, p. 263, 1864, p. 321.

Called "Bulbul" in Arabic, as is *Pycnonotus arsinoe*.

Supra cinnamomea, uropygio, supracaudalibus et rectricibus læte rufis; loris et stria superciliari albidis, illis medio longitudinaliter fuscescentibus; remigibus fumosis extus rufescente fimbriatis intus basin versus hepatico fulvescente limbatis, apice albedo marginatis; tertiariis pallidius fumosis marginem versus rufescente lavatis, apice obsolete albedo marginatis; rectricibus ($\frac{1}{2}$ medianis exceptis) ante apicem late album macula majore nigricante notatis; tectricibus alæ primi ordinis sordide et magis conspicue, minoribus obsoletius pallido limbatis; genis albidis rufescente fulvo lavatis; gastræo sordide albedo, ex parte rufescente lavato, pectoris lateribus purius rufescentibus, subalaribus albidis; rostro et pedibus flavescente corneis, pedibus magis incarnatis; iride pallide umbrina.

Long. rostr. a fr. 5^{'''}–6.7^{'''}, al. 2^{''} 11^{'''}–3^{''} 2^{'''}, caud. 2^{''} 4^{'''}–2^{''} 8^{'''}, tars. 9^{'''}–11^¼^{'''}.

I am not able to detect any specific distinction between *Aedon galactodes*, *A. familiaris*, and *A. minor*. Brehm says he ob-

served *A. minor* in the coast-country of Abyssinia. The specimens collected by me near Masana and on the Adail coast are, indeed, perceptibly smaller than Egyptian examples; the other characters, again, suit better with *A. familiaris*.

According to the dwelling-places, season, and age, the principal colour varies between a bright rusty and light cream-colour or light reddish-grey. The black spots before the tip of the rectrices are sometimes large, angular, and sharply defined, and sometimes smaller, rounded, and indistinct; the white tips themselves and the light borders of the wing-coverts are sometimes very fresh and broad, sometimes faded, discoloured, and worn; in one specimen, of this species, the whitish superciliary streak is sharply marked, in others scarcely indicated. South-European examples may be on the average considerably larger than Egyptian specimens. *A. minor*, from Abyssinia, again, is smaller than specimens from Egypt, and the bill is also weaker. I give the measurements of such a bird from the Berlin Museum:—Bill 6'' 2'''; wing 2'' 10''', tail 2'' 5''', tarsus 11'''. On the other hand, the difference in the primaries described by Dr. Cabanis does not occur.

This may be a stationary bird in the districts of Southern Arabia, the Samher and Adel Coasts, and also probably in Abyssinia. On the contrary, it is a bird of passage in Egypt, Nubia, and East Sudan, where it usually arrives between the 10th and 15th of April, migrating southwards again in September. It lives in gardens, reed-thickets, cotton-fields, mimosa-woods, hedges, and ditches, and usually shows less preference than the Nightingale for very shady and dense underwood; it also differs from the Nightingale in its song and call-note, and in its general behaviour. It pleases by its rather shy and yet lively nature, which somewhat reminds one of that of a Thrush. It often flutters quickly from twig to twig, up to the very top of a tree, constantly moving, spreading, and closing its tail; soon it is seen running about briskly upon the bare ground, or under the bushes and dry grass, hunting for worms and caterpillars; suddenly it emits a Thrush-like cry of fear, and flies noisily into the bushes. The birds of each pair keep together; the breeding-business begins as early as the end of April. As to

its nesting-place the bird is not particular; and we found the nest in pomegranate-, cotton-, and tamarisk- bushes, upon low mimosa-trees half-concealed in grass, and in thin hedges, in gardens, and the immediate vicinity of buildings and the busy noise of men, as well as in deserted solitary places, or in quiet mimosa-groves. It resembles that of the Blackcap, consists of fine grass, rootlets, horsehair, wool, and so forth; occasionally, but rarely, small twigs are interwoven in it. The structure is slight and not very thick or artificial. The bird does not appear to lay more than four eggs; and I believe that it usually makes two nests, even when the first is not disturbed. In coloration the eggs have nothing in common with those of the Nightingale; they rather resemble those of certain Reed-Warblers, and of the Wagtails. The young, as regards coloration, are scarcely different from the adults. The sides of the breast are shaded with rusty-reddish, and indistinctly spotted.

Although differing in many respects, I should arrange *Aedon* next to the *Malurinæ*. Dr. Hartmann states that he has observed *Aedon galactodes* in Lower Egypt still singing at the end of November, whilst at this season of the year the bird was never met with by me north of the rainy limits.

Found also on the Gold Coast (Mus. Stuttg.), and in Algeria (Loche, Tristram).

5. *AEDON LEUCOPTERA* (Rüpp.).

Salicaria leucoptera, Rüpp., Syst. Ueb. tab. 15 and No. 125, *d*;
Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 220; Bp., Consp. Av. i. p. 286.

Saturate cinnamomea, subtus alba, regione mystacali et pectore obsolete fumoso-canesciente striatis; hypochondriis læte ferrugineo indutis; capite supra cerviceque canis, collo laterali pallidiore; stria anteoculari fuliginosa, altera superciliari altera suboculari et ciliis albis; stria obsoleta mystacali alba; alis nigricante fumosis, tectricibus et cubitalibus conspicue et læte albo marginatis; remigibus majoribus pogonio interno basin versus albicantibus; subalaribus albo et fumoso variis, rectricibus læte cinnamomeo rufis, scapis basin versus intense rufoflavis; fascia rectricum apicali lata obsolete nigro-fusca, prima secunda et tertia læte albo terminatis, pogonio externo primæ, apice albo excepto fumoso,

albo limbato ; rostro fusco, dimidio basali mandibulae flavo ; pedibus pallide corneis ; iride fusca.

Long. tot. $6\frac{1}{2}$ ", rostr. a fr. $6\frac{1}{2}$ ", al. $2'' 10'''$, tars. $1''$, cauda $2'' 9'''$.

The fourth primary is the longest, the third a full line, and the second 5 lines shorter ; the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth remiges scarcely shorter than the third. Tail only slightly graduated.

Has hitherto been found only in Shoa, where this Warbler, which is very remarkable for its coloration, appears to be rather rare. Most nearly allied to *Erythropyygia pectoralis*, Smith, from South Africa.

Genus DRYMÆCA, Swains.

6. DRYMÆCA RUFIFRONS.

Malurus rufifrons, Rüpp., N. W. tab. 41, fig. 1. *Drymæca rufifrons*, Rüpp., Syst. Ueb. No. 121 ; Heugl., Ibis, 1859, p. 340, Faun. Roth. Meer, No. 62 ; Brehm, Habesch, No. 287 ; Hartl., W. Afr. p. 169.

Fronte cinnamomeo-rufa ; pileo, nucha, collo postico et laterali, interscapulio et tergo cinereo murinis ; alis umbrino murinis, tectricibus et tertiariis albido limbatis ; gutture, subalaribus et subcaudalibus albis ; pectore et abdomine læte flavicante albis ; tibialibus rubiginosis ; rectricibus fusco nigricantibus, delicate fasciolatis, extima margine laterali et macula majore apicali, binis sequentibus macula apicali albis ; rostro nigricante ; iride ochracea ; annulo periophthalmico nudo læte rubiginoso-flavido ; pedibus rubello-ochraceis.

Long. tot. $4'' 6'''$, al. $1'' 7'''$, caud. $2'' 2\frac{1}{2}'''$, tars. $8\frac{1}{4}'''$, rostr. a fr. $5'''$.

The fifth and sixth remiges the longest ; the first about half as long. In this species the naked ring round the eye is very remarkable, somewhat swollen, and very brightly coloured, as in *Sylvia melanocephala* ; it is not mentioned by Rüppell, Brehm, or Hartlaub. The coloration of the tail is also aberrant.

This brisk and lively Warbler, which renders itself remarkable by its shrill melodies, inhabits, according to my observations, only the west coast of the Red Sea, from latitude 17° N., the bay of Tedjura, and the Somali coast, and occurs usually in pairs in acacia-thickets and on euphorbias and stapelias. Dr.

Brehm says that he found this species very abundantly upon the plateau of Mensa (4000 to 6000 feet) ; but in opposition to my friend's statement, it is of this species that I would least of all assert that it is "a Sedge-Warbler in its whole being and nature." Its song, call-note, general mode of life, and dwelling-place show, in accordance with the peculiar form of the bill and formation of the wings and tail, that *Drymæca* and *Calamohærpe* are not so very nearly allied. Indeed I am inclined to think that Brehm had not this species before him at all. I know this exceedingly delicate little bird, easily distinguishable at the first glance by its long black rectrices from all its allies, only as a rare inhabitant of the coast-region ; and if it were "very abundant" in Mensa, its occurrence there could not possibly have escaped me.

Found also on the Gaboon (Du Chaillu).

7. DRYMÆCA MYSTACEA.

Drymæca mystacea, Rüpp., Syst. Ueb. No. 122 and tab. 10 ; Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 167 ; Bp., Consp. Av. i. p. 283. *Drymæca affinis*, Smith, Ill. Zool. S. Afr. tab. 77 (?) ; Hartl., W. Afr. No. 166 (et No. 167 ?).

Supra ex cinerascens fulvida, alæ tectricibus et tertiariis magis fumosis et conspicue ochraceo marginatis ; uropygio fulvescenti-albido ; tectricibus caudæ superioribus ochraceis ; rectricibus valde angustatis et elongatis pallide fumosis, dorsi colore lavatis et marginatis, extimis pallidioribus, sub-albicantibus, omnibus ante apicem sordide albidum macula obsoletiore nigricanti-fumosa notatis : subtus albicans, lateraliter magis fulvescente adumbrata ; ciliis albidis ; loris et stria supraoculari pallide fulvescentibus ; macula ante-oculari obsoleta fumosa ; remigibus fuliginoso fumosis, pogonio externo delicate rufescente fulvo, interno basin versus pallide fulvo marginatis ; rostro cerino flavicante, pedibus rubellis ; iride pallide umbrina.

Long. tot. 4" 7¹/₂"-5", rostr. a fr. 4"-4.9", al. 1" 9¹/₂"-1" 11¹/₂", caud. 2" 6¹/₂", tars. 9"-9¹/₄".

In many specimens the bill is more mouse-coloured, with an olive-greyish tint.

This species is pretty widely distributed in North-east Africa ; it was observed by us in Central and Southern

Abyssinia, in Sennaar, and on the Sobat, White, and Gazelle Rivers. It lives usually in pairs, in bushes and dry grass, if possible in the vicinity of water, and ascends in Abyssinia to 10,000 feet above the sea-level. It is particularly abundant about Lake Tana, and near Gondar. It is, like its allies, a lively, active little bird, with a loud and agreeable song. Like most of the Bush-wrens, this species presents two distinct rictal bristles on each side.

Found also in South Africa (Smith); and West Africa, Abomey (Fraser).

7 a. DRYMÆCA SUPERCILIOSA.

Drymæca superciliosa, Swains., W. Afr. ii. p. 40, pl. 2. *Drymæca affinis*, Smith, S. Afr. tab. 77, 1 (?).

Simillima *Drymæca mystacea*, at minor, supra magis rufescente tincta, uropygio subrufescenti-fulvo; margine remigum, tectricum alæ et rectricum pallide rufescenti-fulvidis; tibialibus magis rufescenti lavatis.

Long. tot. circa $4\frac{1}{4}$ " , rostr. a fr. $4\frac{1}{2}$ " , al. $1''\ 8\frac{1}{4}$ " , tars. $7\frac{3}{4}$ " , caud. $2''\ 1'''$.

A bird obtained by us in the month of December in Sennaar, now in the Museum at Stuttgart, perfectly agrees in size and colour with a specimen in the Berlin Museum marked "*Drymæca gracilis*," from Senegambia. But the plumage of the latter, which I should regard as *D. superciliosa*, Sw., is more faded, the bill somewhat shorter and stronger, and the tail about $1'''$ shorter. An example in the Stuttgart Museum labelled "*Malurus gracilis*," from South Africa, which may be identical with *Drymæca affinis*, Smith, is likewise not essentially different from either of the above-mentioned—the wing measuring $1''\ 8\cdot8'''$, the tail $2''$; and I found in this South-African specimen only one, instead of two rictal bristles. It is possible that the southern and western forms coincide with *Drymæca mystacea*, Rüpp.; and in this case the synonymy would take the following form:—

Drymæca superciliosa, Swains. (1837); *D. mystacea*, Rüpp. (1845); *D. affinis*, Smith (1849); *D. gracilis*, Hartl. W. Afr. No. 167 (1857).

Dr. Finsch regards *Cisticola tenella*, Cab.*, from Eastern Africa, as identical with *Drymæca superciliosa*. The shorter tail of the former, as well as its somewhat longer tarsi, seem to me to be against this view; moreover the rectrices are somewhat broader, the bill longer, the colour above lighter smoky-brown, and the blackish subterminal spots on the rectrices more strongly marked. I measure the original specimen as follows:—Bill nearly 5''' , wing 1" 7''' , tarsus 9''' , tail 1" 7''' . Swainson and, following him, Hartlaub give the following measurements for *Drymæca superciliosa* :—

Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ " , bill $\frac{4}{10}$ " , wing $1\frac{8}{10}$ " , tarsus $\frac{8}{10}$ " , tail $2\frac{3}{10}$ " , which, converted into French measure, gives—length nearly 4" 3''' , bill $5\frac{1}{2}$ " , wing 1" $8\frac{1}{3}$ " , tarsus 9" , tail 2" 2''' .

7 b. *DRYMÆCA MURINA*, nob.

Similis *Drymæcæ mystacæ*, paulo minor, rostro graciliori nigricante; supra ex toto sordide at saturate fuscescente murina, pileo saturatius tincto; tectricum alæ et tertiariarum marginibus ochraceis albis; remigibus extus delicate albicanti-, basin versus rufescenti-marginatis; stria superciliari, ciliis et loris magis conspicue et magis abrupte albidis; gastræo minus fulvescenti lavato; area magna utrinque pectorali murina.

Long. $4\frac{1}{2}$ " , rostr. a fr. $4\frac{1}{3}$ " , al. 1" 10'''–1" 11''' , caud. 1" 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " , tars. $7\frac{1}{2}$ " –8''' .

A permanent resident in Abyssinia, met with toward the north as far as the Bogos country, where this form, which is very similar to the true *D. mystacea*, lives in bushes and tall dry grass. Rüppell appears to regard it as the female of the preceding; I think, on the contrary, that we must separate the two birds, at least provisionally, the differences in the coloration of the plumage and bill being too remarkable and constant. Moreover, in all examples of the true *D. mystacea* examined by me, I find no trace of the large, although not sharply defined, patch upon the sides of the breast, which is very strikingly shown in *D. murina*. The bill is very dark smoky-brown. Specimens in the Museums at Frankfort and Stuttgart.

* [We cannot recollect having met with a description of this species. —ED.]

8. DRYMÆCA CLAMANS.

Prinia clamans, Rüpp., N. W. Atl. tab. 2, fig. a. *Drymæca clamans*, Rüpp., Syst. Ueb. No. 116; Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 179; Bp., Consp. Av. i. p. 283; Lefeb., Abyss. Ois. p. 166.

Occipitis plumis et tectricibus alarum nigris, conspicue albo marginatis; nucha pallide cana; interscapulio, scapularibus et marginibus tertiararum læte cinnamomeo-isabellinis; tergo et uropygio purius isabellinis; ciliis, loris, genis et gastræo flavicante albidis; remigibus pallide fumosis, extus strictissime albo marginatis, intus basin versus flavescenti-albicantibus; rectricibus, valde elongatis et graduatis, canis, ante apicem latum album late et conspicue nigricantibus, ex toto delicate fasciolatis; rostro læte corneo flavicanti, apice nigricanti; iride helvola; pedibus rubello flavidis.

Long. tot. $4\frac{3}{4}''$, rostr. a fr. $4''$, al. $1'' 9\frac{1}{2}'''$, caud. $2'' 2'''$, tars. $7\frac{1}{2}'''$.

Occurring in pairs in Southern Nubia, in Northern Sennaar, and especially in Kordofan. Like its congeners, this species, which is remarkable for its charming colouring, lives in thorny bushes intermixed with tall grass. The song and call-note resemble those of *Drymæca gracilis*. Also found by Lefebvre in Northern Abyssinia in the province of Schirié.

9. DRYMÆCA GRACILIS.

Prinia gracilis, Rüpp., Atl. tab. 2, fig. 6. *Drymæca gracilis*, Rüpp., Syst. Ueb. No. 117; Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 178, Ibis, 1859, p. 340; Antin., Cat. p. 37; Cab., Mus. Hein. i. 44; Bp., Consp. Av. i. p. 283. *Burnesia lepida*, Blyth, Ibis, 1865, p. 44.

Supra umbrino cinerascens, nigricanti striolata; subtus sericeo albida ex parte tergæi colore lavata; loris et ciliis albidis; remigibus et rectricibus fumosis, illis pogonio externo ex rufescenti cano-umbrino marginatis; subalaribus albidis, fulvescenti-tinctis; rectricibus valde elongatis et graduatis, macula fumoso-nigricante ante apicem album notatis; $\frac{1}{2}$ medianis subconcoloribus, omnibus delicatissime fasciolatis; rostro cerino corneo, apice et culmine magis fusco; iride helvola; pedibus rubello-flavicantibus.

Long. tot. vix $5''$, rostr. $4\frac{1}{4}'''$, al. $1'' 7'''$ – $1'' 8'''$, tars. vix $8'''$, caud. $2'' 1'''$ – $2'' 2'''$.

In many examples there is a distinct dark striation of the flanks, which in others is completely effaced.

Abundant, in pairs, in Egypt northwards nearly to the Mediterranean, in Arabia Petræa, Nubia, Takah, and the Bogos country, particularly abundant along the Nile and its canals, in gardens, hedges, acacia- and palm- groves, reeds and tall grass, is a permanent resident and breeds in Nubia in June, July, and August, but much earlier in Egypt. The small, elegant, and rather deep nest, which is constructed of dry grass-stalks and rootlets and lined with the wool of plants and hairs, is placed low down in palm-bushes and thorny shrubs. The three or four eggs are 6''' to 7''' long, and 5''' in breadth, spotted and marbled all over, upon a white ground, with light yellowish- or rusty-brown, while in general a dense ring of darker spots surrounds the larger end.

This elegant species is a very lively little bird, which appears to quit its station very unwillingly. Thus it dwells harmlessly in the bushes, climbs dexterously up and down the grass-stalks, and glides and hops briskly through the thicket; sometimes it descends upon the ground and runs about seeking insects among the herbage. The tail is generally carried high, and sometimes expanded, especially when the bird calls, or emits its loud, ringing and metallic song. The call-note may nearly be represented by "quick-quick." The males seem to be of a very jealous nature, and often pursue each other with cries, and fight whilst flying in circles.

Found also in Syria, Asia Minor, and India. Dr. Hartlaub's statement that this species occurs on the Senegal rests on an error.

10. *DRYMÆCA PULCHELLA*.

Prinia pulchella, Rüpp., Atl. tab. 35 a. *Drymæca pulchella*, Rüpp., Syst. Ueb. No. 118; Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 177. *D. sylvietta*, Heugl., J. f. O. 1863, p. 165; Bp., Consp. Av. i. p. 283.

Supra olivaceo murina, genis et gastræo pallide subsulfureis; loris striaque superciliari pallidis, aurantiaco-flavo lavatis; alis dilute fusciscenti-cinerascentibus, tertiariis secundariis et tectricibus pallide subolivascenscenti-marginatis; rectricibus nigricanti-fuliginosis et delicate fasciolatis, extima pogonio externo vix toto maculaque apicali cuneiformi albis; sequentibus extus albo-marginatis, apice macula triquetra alba plus minusve distincta notatis; medianis concoloribus;

subalaribus albidis, flavido lavatis; rostro rubenti-flavido, culmine et apice maxillæ nigricante; iride helvola; pedibus flavo rubellis.

Long. tot. 4", rostr. a fr. 3·8", al. 1" 7", caud. 1" 9½", tars. 7".

♀ Minor, pallidius tineta, marginibus exterioribus cubitalium magis cinerascens.

An aberrant form, with a rather phyllopneustine bill; the colouring also resembles that of *Phyllopneuste*. The fourth primary is the longest, the third scarcely shorter. The rather long rectrices are narrow, and the tail is rather strongly graduated.

Lives singly, and in pairs, in Southern Kordofan, Western Sennaar, and along the Abiad and Gazelle Rivers, generally in thorny bushes or upon acacias and nebeq-trees. Song and call-note very clear, like those of *Drymæca clamans*.

11. DRYMÆCA IODOPTERA, Heugl. J. f. O. 1864, p. 258.

(Plate I. fig. 2.)

Supra delicatissime ex purpurascente hepatico-cinerea, pileo vix saturatiore, cervice purius cærulescenti-cinerea, uropygio et supracaudalibus læte ochraceis, his apice rufo lavatis; tectricibus alarum purpurascenti-hepaticis, lætius purpurascenti rufo marginatis; remigibus et tertiariis cinerascens-fumosis, læte rufo marginatis, illis intus basin versus pallide hepatico-albido limbatis; rectricibus tergæo concoloribus, exterioribus pallidius fumosis, medianis rufescenti-, extimis basin versus magis fulvescenti-marginatis et ante apicem albicantem macula obsoleta fumosa notatis; genis delicate cinerascens; gula albida; gastræo reliquo delicate fulvescenti-, abdomine postico saturatius rufescenti-ochraceo lavato; rostro rufescenti-cerino; iride helvola; pedibus rufescenti flavidis.

Long. tot. 5"-5" 5", rostr. a fr. 6"½-7", al. 1" 11½", caud. 2" 2", tars. 9"-9½".

One specimen of this species, which is very strongly marked by the striking liver-grey colour of its back and bright purple-red wing-coverts, as also by its long, strongly curved and yet powerful bill, shows no trace of dark spots at the tip of the tail, the feathers of which are narrow. The wings are short and rather acute, and do not extend much beyond the root of the tail.

Observed rarely in the forest-region of the most central parts of Africa, in the provinces Bongo and Dembo in April and August. It lives singly in dense bushes intermixed with tall grass, and has a loud and pleasant song. It appears to me nearest to *Drymæca erythroptera*, which, however, has a much shorter blackish bill and considerably longer remiges, but a rather shorter tail.

Specimens in the Museums at Stuttgart and Leyden.

12. *DRYMÆCA MARGINATA*; *Drymæca marginalis*, Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 175.

(Plate I. fig. 1.)

Pileo et nucha læte rufescenti-fulvis, illius plumis maculis medianis latis nitide umbrino nigricantibus notatis; cervice pallidiore immaculata; interscapulio, tergo, scapularibus, tectricibus alarum primi ordinis tertiariisque læte nigris, late et conspicue pallide fulvo marginatis, tertiariarum marginibus internis magis albidis, externis et tectricum majorum marginibus magis rufescenti-indutis; uropygio et supracaudalibus cervinis, immaculatis; rectricibus $\frac{1}{2}$ medianis medio longitudinaliter fumoso nigricantibus, late at nec abrupte fulvo-cervino marginatis, apicem versus macula obsoleta nigricante instructis; reliquis fumoso canis, pogonio externo magis cervinis, ante apicem albidum nigricanti-notatis; remigibus pallide fumosis, pogonio externo (apice excepto) stricte rufescenti-cervino-, intus basin versus hepatico albedo-marginatis; tectricibus alæ minoribus cano fulvis, medio fumosis; subtus ex fulvescente sericeo albida, gula et abdomine medio purius albis, pectore, hypochondriis, crisso et cruribus lætius rufescenti-fulvo adumbratis; loris fulvescenti-, ciliis pure albis; rostro cerino corneo, maxilla magis fusceseente; iride helvola; pedibus rubellis.

Long. tot. 4" 10", rostr. a fr. 5·2"—5·6", al. 1" 10"—2", caud. 2"—2" 2", tars. 8·8"—8·9".

Like *Drymæca erythrogenys*, but much smaller, the bill rather shorter and much more curved, feet, wings, and tail considerably shorter, the vertex bright light-brownish rusty-yellow, with much broader brownish-black spots on the shafts, which disappear on the nape, where they are broadest and closest together in *D. erythrogenys*; the bright rusty fawn-coloured margins of the feathers of the greater wing-coverts and tertial remiges are much broader and still more distinctly marked, those of the inner



M.T. von Heudlin. pinx.
J. G. Keulemans. lithog.

M & N. Hanhart. sculp.

Fig 1. DRYMOECA MARGINATA. Fig 2. D. IODOPTERA

vanes of the latter broadly white or yellowish-white; the duller fawn-coloured upper tail-coverts are not streaked with black; eyelids and middle of throat and belly tolerably pure white.

Lives in pairs in the reed-thickets of the Upper Abiad and Gazelle Rivers and on the Lower Bahr el Djebel, from which, especially in the morning, we frequently heard the song and call-note of this bird.

Described from three specimens differing very inconsiderably from each other in the Museums at Vienna and Stuttgart. Dr. Finsch regards *Drymæca marginata* as identical with *Drymæca erythrogeus*, but without having directly compared the birds. It is impossible to confound them.

13. DRYMÆCA ERYTHROGENYS.

Drymæca erythrogeus, Rüpp., Syst. Ueb. tab. 12 and No. 125; Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 176; Bp., Consp. Av. i. p. 184. *D. bizonura*, Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 176.

Capite supra et cervice læte cervino fulvis, striete nigricante striolatis; auchenio pallidiore; scapularibus, interseapulio, tergo et tertiariis nigris, late et conspicue fulvo striatis; uropygio fulvo immaculato; tectricibus caudæ superioribus rufescente fulvis, conspicue nigro striatis; rectricibus nigricante fuliginosis, subtus canescentibus, extus late fulvo marginatis, ante apicem fulvo albidum late nigricante notatis, deinde pallidioribus; remigibus fumosis, extus (apice excepto) læte cinnamomeo marginatis, intus basin versus sordide rufescente fulvo limbatis; stria obsoleta superciliari fulva; loris fulvescente albidis; macula obsoleta anteoculari fumosa; subtus fulvescente albida, genis, hypochondriis cruribusque lætius rufescente lavatis; pectoris lateribus nigricante striolatis; rostro cerino corneo, culmine et apice magis fusco; iride helvola; pedibus cerinis.

Long. tot. $5\frac{1}{2}''$, rostr. a fr. $5\frac{1}{4}'''$ – $6'''$, al. $2''4\frac{1}{2}'''$ – $2''5\frac{1}{2}'''$, caud. $2''6'''$, tars. $9\frac{1}{2}'''$.

The rectrices, especially the two middle pairs, have nearly the whole of their outer vanes yellowish fawn-coloured, and their inner vanes more smoky-blackish, like the shaft, and a very narrow stripe along the latter on the outer vane; the rectrices are sometimes washed with yellow upon the ground-colour of the upper surface.

Lives in pairs in the Abyssinian Mountains at from 5000 to 10,000 feet above the sea-level, especially in isolated thickets, in wooded ravines, and torrents, sometimes also in tall grass. The song is very loud and variable. I have some reason to think that this bird may really coincide with *D. lugubris* (Rüpp.), and that it is to be regarded as the young of the latter species, but I have no definite data upon this point. The coloration is very different, but not the structure of the tail or the distribution of colour upon it, especially the indication of the triple band at the tip. For the present I cite the two forms as specifically distinct.

14. *DRYMÆCA CANTANS*.

Drymæca cantans, Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 174. *D. lugubris*?, Heugl., J. f. O. 1861, p. 194.

Media; pileo et nucha saturate umbrino rufis, immaculatis; loris et superciliis latis, conspicuis, fulvescenti-albidis; interscapulio, scapularibus et tergo fuscescenti-canis, conspicue fusco-nigricante striatis; uropygio et supracaudalibus ex olivaceo cano fulvescentibus, immaculatis; tectricibus alarum cano-fumosis, pallide marginatis, minoribus magis cano tinctis; tertiariis saturate fumosis, dorsi colore dilute marginatis (marginibus in plerisque aut rufescenti-, aut sordide fulvescenti-lavatis); rectricibus fumosis, extus, basin versus, magis conspicue rufescenti-marginatis, intus basin versus ex hepatico-fulvo limbatis, rectricibus latusculis, ex olivaceo cano umbrinis, vix pallidius marginatis, $\frac{2}{3}$ extimis apice late albis, omnibus macula anteapicali nigricante notatis; subtus ex fulvescente albicans, vix olivaceo lavata; gula purius alba; lateribus pectoris canescente tinctis; tibialibus rufescentibus; rostro fuscescenti-corneo, mandibulæ tomis pallidioribus; iride helvola; pedibus cerino rubellis, hypodactylis griseis.

Long. tot. 5'' 2''', rostr. a fr. 4·8'''-5''', al. 2''-2'' 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ''', caud. 2'' 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ '''-2'' 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ''', tars. 9'''.

This species, established upon six specimens in the Museums at Stuttgart, Frankfort, and Vienna, is distinguished from *Drymæca lugubris* by the distinct whitish superciliar streak, much brighter brownish-rusty vertex and nape, the lighter-coloured and less distinct streak on the shafts of the mantle, by the sides of the breast and the tail-coverts being spotless, the



much broader rectrices with a double apical band, by its rather smaller size and more curved but scarcely stronger bill. The tint varies, however, considerably. The birds, before moulting, which seems to take place in the beginning of the year, are of course less brightly marked; the rusty-red of the vertex and the margins of the remiges especially then becomes more of a cinnamon-colour; the mantle becomes of a dingy mouse-colour with a slight tinge of brown and a very obsolete dark striation.

This bird has a tolerably wide range in Abyssinia. We found it in Tigré and Semien, as also in the basin of Lake Tana, at from 5000 to 11,000 feet above the sea-level. It lives singly, and in pairs, in thickets on the borders of the torrents and stony islets, in the bushes and high grass, appears to be a permanent resident, and is distinguished by its excellent ringing song.

A similarly coloured but somewhat larger bird in the Frankfort Museum exhibits an obsolete dark striation on the vertex, narrower rectrices, and stronger feet; its measurements are:—wing $2'' 5\frac{3}{4}'''$; tail $2'' 2'''$; tarsus $10'''$; but I doubt whether it is to be referred to *D. cantans*.

According to a communication by letter from Dr. Finsch, *Drymæca cantans*, Heugl., = *D. subruficapilla*, Smith; but neither the figure nor the description and measurements given by Smith justify this supposition. My bird is rather larger; has a much more powerful bill, a whole-coloured vertex not streaked with brown, and a longer, much broader, and less graduated tail. The measurements of *D. subruficapilla*, according to Smith, are:—Length $5''$ (French measure); wing $1'' 10\frac{1}{2}'''$; tail $2'' 1\frac{1}{2}'''$; and it has blackish streaks on the sides of the breast.

15. DRYMÆCA CONCOLOR, nob.

(Plate II. fig. 1.)

Similis *Drymæcæ cantanti*, Heugl., at lætius tincta, tergo interscapulio et scapularibus ex olivaceo saturate murino umbrinis immaculatis; tectricibus alæ et tertiariis fumosis obsolete et nec abrupte cinnamomeo rufescente marginatis; cauda lata conspicue rufescente lavata; genis rufescentibus; stria supraoculari et loris pallidioribus; ciliis albidis. Occipite et nucha ex olivaceo rufis, immaculatis; genis eodem colore lavatis; macula anteoculari vix distincta fumosa;

rectricibus latiusculis umbrino murinis, pogonio externo rufescente lavatis, infra canis; margine angustiore apicali albido, conspicue cinereo lavato; macula anteapicali nigricante; gastræo albido, lateraliter olivaceo fulvescente tincto; subalaribus fulvidis; tibialibus ex olivaceo rufescentibus; rostro corneo-fusco, dimidio basali mandibulæ flavicante; pedibus cerino rubellis.

Long. tot. circa $4\frac{3}{4}$ ", rostr. a fr. vix 5"', al. 2", caud. 2" 1"', tars. $9\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Exceedingly like *Drymæca cantans*; the bill rather stronger; above in general much more brightly coloured, and the mantle without any trace of streaking, although the specimen described appears to have freshly moulted. The wing-coverts and tertials, moreover, show a perfectly different coloration: with a tolerably deep smoky ground, they are rather broadly (but not sharply) bordered with ferruginous, and exhibit no broad, dark spots on the shaft.

From North-east Africa, probably from the White Nile (certainly not from Abyssinia). In the Berlin Museum.

16. *DRYMÆCA FLAVEOLA*, Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 166, and J. f. O. 1862, p. 289.

(Plate II. fig. 2.)

Supra læte rufo-cervina (cervice excepta) late et conspicue nigricante striata; supracaudalibus purius rufis, obsolete fusco striolatis; tertiaris et tectricibus alæ late et circumscripte cervino rufescente marginatis; remigibus fumosis, extus cinnamomeo marginatis, intus basin versus pallide hepatico limbatis; rectricibus fuliginoso canis, medianis cervino fulvo marginatis, omnibus apice late rufescente albis, fascia anteapicali 3'''–5''' late nigricante notatis; ciliis, loris et gastræo læte virenti-flavicantibus; fronte et tectricibus alæ minoribus eodem colore tinctis; pectoris lateribus et hypochondriis olivaceo rufescente adumbratis; cruris et subcaudalibus rufescenti-ochraceis; margine alari et subalaribus extimis pallide viridi-flavescentibus, medianis pallide hepaticis; rostro cerino, culmine magis fusco; pedibus rubello cerinis; iride helvola.

Long. tot. 5" 4"', rostr. a fr. 5"', caud. 2" 3"', al. 2" $3\frac{1}{2}$ ", tars. 10'''–11'''.

This species is distinguished by the bright light-greenish-

yellow colour of the throat, breast, and abdomen. The broad, blackish spots at the tips of the rectrices are produced downwards along the shaft, somewhat like an arrow-head.

We found this species only in the environs of Adowa, in Abyssinia, upon moist places overgrown with bushes and rushes, at an elevation of from 5000 to 7000 feet above the sea. It climbs about like a Sedge-Warbler upon the stalks, or balances itself whilst singing or calling upon their tips. In the nestling-plumage the blackish striation on the vertex and mantle is more indistinct, and the crissum more whitish. The breeding-time seems to be in the month of November. At the beginning of December we found young birds of this species, scarcely able to fly, upon *Cyperus*-bushes on the margin of a large marsh.

17. DRYMÆCA ROBUSTA.

Drymæca robusta, Rüpp. (nec Blyth), Syst. Ueb. No. 123, and tab. 13; Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 172; Leféb., Abyss. Ois. p. 89; Bp., Consp. Av. p. 283.

Major; capite supra cerviceque tota læte et saturate umbrino rufis, hac pallidior, illius plumis medio late fusco nigricanti striatis; macula anteoculari obsoleta fumosa; loris, ciliis, strigae lata superciliari fulvescenti-albidis; interscapulo, tergo, uropygio et supracaudalibus, scapularibus et tectricibus alæ minoribus fusco nigricantibus conspicue pallide fulvo-, tectricibus alæ minoribus et uropygii plumis magis fulvo-canescenti-marginatis; tertiariis nigricantibus, extus stricte et late rufescenti-, intus paulo angustius fulvescenti-albido marginatis; tectricibus alæ majoribus fusco-nigricantibus, albido marginatis, albedine marginali plus minusve rufescenti-lavata; remigibus fumosis, basin versus extus rufescenti-, intus magis hepatico-fulvescenti-marginatis; rectricibus latis, truncatis, supra fumosis, medianis magis nigricantibus, infra canescentibus, rufescente marginatis, † medianis exceptis ante apicem fulvescenti-albidum late nigricante notatis; genis et gastræo fulvescenti-albidis, colli lateribus et hypochondriis magis ochraceo lavatis; crisso, subcaudalibus et tibialibus lætius ex rufescente fulvo-ochraceis; pectoris lateribus plus minusve cano lavatis; rostro fusco-corneo, dimidio basali mandibulæ flavido; iride helvola, pedibus rubellis.

Long. tot. $6\frac{1}{4}''$ – $6\frac{1}{2}''$, rostr. a fr. $5\frac{1}{2}'''$ – $6'''$, ab ang. or. $9'''$, al. $2''$ $10\frac{1}{2}'''$, caud. $2''$ $5'''$, tars. $12'''$ – $13'''$.

The third, fourth, fifth, and sixth remiges the longest; the first 12''-13'', the second 3'' shorter than the tip of the wing.

This rare species is contained in the Museums of Frankfort, Vienna, Paris, and Stuttgart. The description is from five specimens, remarkably similar in proportions and coloration, and all obtained from central Abyssinia and Shoa. It appears to be most nearly allied to *Drymæca procerula*, Sund. (Æfvers. 1850, p. 104), which seems to be distinguished by its lighter forehead, and the absence of rusty colour on the vertex and nape, as also upon the pointed rectrices.

Drymæca robusta, like its congeners, lives generally in pairs, upon pastures and among the low bushes. Each pair seems to take possession of a tolerably wide domain; nevertheless these birds lead a rather concealed and quiet life, although they are not shy, and when pursued endeavour rather to escape by hopping and gliding through the covert than by resorting to flight. It probably does not migrate; yet we met with this species only between the months of December and May, and at an elevation of from 5500 to 8000 feet above the sea.

18. *DRYMÆCA MALZACI*, Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 173.

Similis *Drymæcæ robustæ*, Rüpp., at minor; rostro multo brevior et altiore, magis arcuato; pedibus gracilioribus; albedine apicali caudæ multo angustiore; pileo et cervice in fundo fulvescente (nec læte rufo) fusco nigricante striatis; coloribus ex toto obsoletioribus, at scapularibus, interscapulio et tertiariis lætius fulvo marginatis; margine tectricum alæ primi ordinis ex canescente fulvo albida, nec rufescenti-lavata; tibialibus, crisso et subcaudalibus pallide fulvidis, nec læte rufescenti-ochraceis; tergo et uropygio fulvo-cervinis. Notæo fusco-nigricante, plumis conspicue et pure fulvo marginatis; tectricibus alæ minoribus in fundo fuliginoso late fulvo-cano-limbatis; stria obsoleta superciliari, ciliis, loris et gastræo fulvescenti-albidis, gula et abdomine mediis purius albidis; pectoris lateribus pallide olivaceo-fuscescenti-, hypochondriis magis ochraceo lavatis; remigibus extus, apice excepto, pallide rufescenti-fulvo marginatis; rectricibus medianis saturate fumosis, reliquis obscurius fumoso-canis, fulvescente marginatis; scapis rectricum pallidis; rectricibus omnibus ante apicem angustiore albidum ni-

gricante notatis; rostro pallide incarnato cerino corneo; pedibus rubello cerinis; iride fusca.

Long. tot. $5\frac{3}{4}$ ", rostr. a fr. $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", ab ang. or. $7\frac{3}{4}$ ", al. $2''\ 6'''$, caud. $2''\ 2'''$, tars. $10\frac{1}{2}'''$.

I regard this bird, of which, however, I have only one specimen before me, as specifically distinct from *Drymæca robusta*: the much lighter bill is shorter, much more curved and much higher than in that; on the vertex and nape the bright brownish-rusty colour is entirely wanting and replaced by tawny-yellow; the nape-feathers show a pretty distinct dark striation; the mantle-feathers are margined with bright tawny-yellow; the rump likewise tawny-yellow, spotless; the much broader margins of the rectrices of the same colour. The white apex of the tail is only half as broad as in *D. robusta*, and the blackish spot is distinctly visible on the median pair of feathers. Of the remiges the fifth is the longest; the fourth scarcely, and the third notably shorter; the under tail-coverts reach to the tip of the first rectrices, while in all the specimens of *D. robusta* before me they are from $4'''$ to $6'''$ shorter.

I obtained the bird described, which was determined to be a male, through the French traveller, M. A. de Malzac, who killed it in March on the lower Bahr el Djebel, near Djak, in the district of the Kidj negroes. We never met with *Drymæca robusta* in the region of the White Nile.

19. DRYMÆCA LUGUBRIS.

Drymæca lugubris, Rüpp., Syst. Ueb. No. 124, and tab. ii.; Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 164; Lefébv., Ois. Abyss. p. 89; Bp., Consp. Av. i. p. 283. *Drymæca bizonura*, Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 176.

Similis quoad figuram *Drymæcæ erythrogeneri*, at cauda brevior, apice purius trifasciata; pileo obsolete fumoso cano, rufescenti lavato; cervice obscuriore, obsolete fusciscenti-varia; intercapulio et scapularibus fuliginoso nigricantibus, plumis indistincte fusciscente cinereo marginatis; uropygio et supracaudalibus fusciscente canis, his ex parte nigricante striolatis; tertiariis et tectricibus alæ nigricante fuscis, stricte et obsolete fulvescenti-albido marginatis; remigibus fumosis, extus basin versus magis magisve cinnamomeo marginatis, intus rufescenti-fulvo lim-

batis; rectricibus fusco nigris ($\frac{1}{2}$ medianis pallidioribus), ex cano fulvescente marginatis, ante apicem albidum fascia nigricante, deinde basin versus fascia altera, 5''' lata, fulvescente notatis; genis cano fulvescentibus; stria superciliari et ciliis pallide fulvis: subtus fulvescente albida, pectoris lateribus obsolete nigricante striolatis; rostro fuscescendo corneo, mandibula flavicante; iride helvola; pedibus rubello cerinis.

Long. tot. 5½'', rostr. a fr. 6.1'', al. 2'' 4⅓'', caud. 2'' ½'', tars. 10''.

A species distinguished by the unspotted brownish-grey vertex tinged with ferruginous, especially towards the forehead, the dull grey margins of the mantle-feathers, and the peculiar marking of the tail. The ground-colour of the rectrices is smoky or smoky-black; at the tip a rather narrow white spot, sometimes washed with yellowish-grey, appears; above this a blackish transverse band nearly 3''' broad, and above this again an ochraceous band nearly 5''' broad, which is very distinctly marked upon the inner vane. The sides of the face are dull mouse-grey or ochraceous; the eyelids and superciliary streak very light ochreous-yellow; the loins in some specimens are of a greyish tinge.

The description is from the original specimen in the Senckenbergian Museum, which was probably killed in Eastern Abyssinia. It lives, according to Rüppell, singly in thickets and thin shrub-beries on the plateau of Abyssinia.

20. *DRYMÆCA ANTINORII*, Salvad., Heugl. J.f.O. 1867, p. 202.

"*Drymæca* ?," Antin., Cat. p. 37.

"Major; supra unicolore rufo-fuliginosa, subtus albida, hypochondriis et subcaudalibus isabellino rufescentibus; rectricibus fusco-rubrescentibus, lineis minutissimis indistincte transversim striatis; pogonio interno atque partim externo apicem versus, macula nigra notato; remigibus obscuris, rufo marginatis; rostro corneo, robusto, incurvo; iride fusca."

"Fu ucciso da me il 10 aprile del 1861, fra i cespugli che erano attorno ad un piccol lago per entro la tribù degli *Elwasch*, fra il 7 e 6 L. N., nello interno del Gazal."—Antin. *l. c.*

According to a communication from De Filippi this species,

which is no longer to be found in the Museum at Turin, resembles *Drymæca ruficeps*; the bill is robust and much curved.

21. DRYMÆCA RUFICEPS.

Malurus ruficeps, Rüpp., Atl. tab. 36. *Drymæca ruficeps*, Rüpp., Syst. Ueb. No. 120; Bp., Conspect. Av. i. p. 283; Hartl., J. f. O. 1861, p. 110; Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 169; Cass., Proc. Ac. Phil. 1859, p. 37 (?).

Capite supra, cervice et supracaudalibus cinnamomeis, concoloribus; loris, ciliis, stria superciliari, gastræo et subalaribus albidis, isabellino lavatis; macula anteoculari obsolete pallide fumosa; interscapulio et scapularibus migricanti-fuscis, lateraliter obsolete ex rufescente fulvo-albido marginatis; tertiariis saturate nigricanti-fuscis, late et conspicue pallide fulvescente-marginatis; remigibus et tectricibus alæ fusco-fumosis, his fulvescenti marginatis, margine exteriori basin versus magis magisque cinnamomeo rufescenti, illis late fulvescenti-limbatis; rectricibus saturate fumosis, infra canescentibus, pogonio externo basin versus cinnamomeo marginatis, 5 exterioribus ante apicem late album macula subrotundata nigricante notatis, prima pogonio externo vix toto albo; tibiis cinnamomeo lavatis; rostro læte cerino corneo, culmine et apice magis spadiceo; iride helvola; pedibus rubello flavidis.

Long. tot. $4\frac{1}{2}''$ – $4\frac{3}{4}''$, rostr. a fr. $4\frac{1}{2}'''$ – $5'''$, al. $2''$ $1'''$ – $2''$ $2'''$, caud. $1''$ $8'''$ – $1''$ $9'''$, tars. $8'''$ – $9'''$.

The fourth primary is the longest, the third to the seventh nearly equal to it, the second $2'''$ and the first $9\frac{1}{2}'''$ shorter than the tip of the wing. The tail rather broad and much graduated, the outermost tail-feathers $7'''$ shorter than the middle ones.

This species inhabits Kordofan, the lower district of the Abiad, Sennaar, Takah, Abyssinia, and probably also southern Nubia. It lives in pairs in the bushes and dry tall grass, not only along the streams, but also on the steppe and in the forest-region. It is a very lively little bird, whose agreeable song and Sedge-Warbler-like call-note is very often heard. It does not migrate. We did not meet with this species in the coast-country of Abyssinia; in the mountains it probably ascends above 7000 feet.

Said also to occur on the Caama and Ogobia Rivers in West Africa (Du Chaillu) (??).

21 a. *DRYMÆCA LEUCOPYGA*, Heugl., Syst. Ueb. No. 170.

Similis *Drymæca ruficipiti*, at robustior, rostro longiore, validiore, corneo nigricante; pileo, cervice et supracaudalibus saturatius fusciscenti-rufis; uropygio late fulvescenti-albido; cauda magis obtusa, subtus minus conspicue albo notata; rectricis extimæ pogonio externo delicate albo marginato, nec toto albo; interscapulii plumis, scapularibus et tertiariis obscurioribus, vix nigris rufescenti-fulvo marginatis.

Long. tot. $5\frac{1}{4}$ ", rostr. a fr. $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", al. $2'' 2\frac{1}{2}$ ", caud. $1'' 9\frac{1}{2}$ ", tars. vix $9''$.

Whether this form is really to be separated specifically from *Drymæca ruficeps* must be left for the present undecided, as I have not at hand the necessary number of specimens for comparison. We killed it in Semien up to 11,000 feet, in Galabet and Eastern Sennaar, where it occurs chiefly in the savannas.

21 b. *DRYMÆCA SCOTOPTERA*, Sundev. (Efvers., 1850, p. 129.

"Superne griseus maculis dorsi magnis nigris; uropygio rufescenti-fusco. Caput superne cum cervice obscure fulvo-rufescens, postice obsolete fusco maculatum. Gastræum immaculatum, albido fulvum, gula ventrequæ medio purius albis. Remiges extus fusciscentes, vix pallido marginatis; cauda minus elongata pennæ superne fusco-nigricantibus, apice pure albis, obtusis, basin versus rufescenti fusco-limbatis; 2 mediis immaculatis; $4\frac{1}{2}$ –5 poll.; al. 5·2 mm.; t. 20; c. 45; r. a fr. 11. Affinis *D. ruficipiti*, Rüpp., sed minor; rostrum fortius, culmine sat arquato. E Sennaaria allata."—Sundev. *l. c.*

The measurements reduced to Paris inches and lines give:—Wing $1'' 11'''$, tarsus $9'''$, tail $1'' 8'''$, bill from the forehead $5'''$.
Not examined by me.

21 c. *DRYMÆCA FULVESCENS*, Sundev., Efvers. 1850, p. 129.

"Similis *D. scotoptera*; pictura ejus omnino, sed color ubique magis fulvescens. Caput superne, alæ extus, uropygium et limbi rectricum rufescenti-fulva. Dorsum fulvescens, maculis nigris. Gastræum totum pallide fulvescens. Rectrices apice pure albæ, subacutæ.

"Ala 50, tars. 21, c. 45, r. a. fr. 12, forma præcedentis.

"*Habitat* in Sennaaria."—Sundev. *l. c.*

The measurements reduced give:—Wing 2", tarsus 9·2", tail 1" 8", bill from the forehead 5·2".

As regards the general coloration and structure of the tail, apparently most nearly allied to the next species.

21 *d.* *DRYMÆCA CORDOFANA*, nob.

Similis *D. ruficipiti*, at rostro fusco longiore, magis arcuato, alis brevioribus; cauda magis graduata, pro mole longiore; tergi et interscapulii colore obsoletiore, magis rufescente; uropygio postico albido.

Long. tot. circa 4½", rostr. a fr. vix 5", al. 1" 9½", tars. vix 8", caud. 1" 8"—1" 9".

Described from an old male from Kordofan, in the Museum of Stuttgart. I do not venture to unite this form also with *D. ruficeps*, although it is very nearly allied to it. Its bill is much more slender, broader at the base, with the culmen sharper and far more arched. Before the white tip of the first tail-feather there is a blackish spot, which usually appears to be wanting in *D. ruficeps*.

22. *DRYMÆCA SIMPLEX*, nob.

Similis *Drymæcæ ruficipiti*, at pileo dorso concolore (nec rufescente), obsolete fuscescenti-striolato; rostro longiore, altiore; alis brevioribus; supracaudalibus pallide cinerascenti-fuscis (nec rufis); digito externo brevior. Supra pallide cinerascenti-fuscens; pileo fuscescenti striolato; interscapulio et scapularibus magis conspicue fumoso nigricante striatis; remigibus fumosis, pogonio externo obsoleto pallide marginatis; tertiariis et tectricibus alæ majoribus fumoso nigricantibus, rufescenti-fulvo marginatis; uropygio albicante; rectricibus medianis fusciscentibus, vix rufescenti-lavatis; reliquis magis cano-fusciscentibus, ante apicem albidum, cano lavatum, nigricante notatis; gastræo fulvescenti-albido, loris, gula et abdomine medio purius albis, pectoris lateribus fulvescente-cano adumbratis; rostro pallide incarnato corneo, culmine fusco; pedibus pallide fulvis; iride helvola.

Long. tot. circa 4¾", rostr. a fr. 5·2", al. 1" 11", caud. 1" 10", tars. 9".

One would be led, on superficial examination, to regard the

bird described as a somewhat faded young state of *D. ruficeps*, if the difference in the proportion of the toes were not observed; for the outer toe is shorter than the inner one, while in the other species the contrary proportion occurs. Moreover the vertex and nape are not bright ferruginous, but light greyish-brown, with narrow, not clearly defined, but yet tolerably distinct smoky-brown streaks on the shafts; the upper tail-coverts and margins of the rectrices are not bright ferruginous, but light greyish-brown.

Described from a specimen killed on the 6th February in the country of the Kij negroes, on the Bahr el Djebel.

To a form very similar to this, probably still undescribed, and distinguished by the peculiar striation of the breast, in the museums of Stuttgart and Frankfort, I give the name of

DRYMÆCA VIRGATA. Pileo et nucha fusco rufescentibus, obsolete fusco striolatis; interscapulis, scapularibus, tergo et tectricibus alæ secundi ordinis umbrino canescentibus, conspicue nigricanti-fusco striatis; uropygio et supra-caudalibus eodem colore dilute maculatis; tectricibus alæ majoribus et tertiariis fumoso nigricantibus, conspicue et late pallide rufescenti-griseo marginatis; remigibus saturate fumosis, pogonio externo rufescenti marginatis, interno basin versus hepatico fulvo limbatis; rectricibus saturate fumosis, conspicue rufescente lavatis, pallidius limbatis, $\frac{5}{2}$ extimis ante apicem albidum, cano lavatum, macula nigricante notatis; loris, genis et gastræo sordide albidis, lateribus pectoris et hypochondriis sordide umbrino canescente lavatis, genis et colli lateribus obsolete rufescente variis, pectore fuscescente striolato; tibialibus rubiginosis; subalaribus albidis, fulvo tinctis; rostro, ut videtur, cerino corneo, culmine magis fusco; pedibus et unguibus flavidis.

Long. tot. circa $4\frac{3}{4}$ ", rostr. a fr. $4\frac{1}{2}$ ", al. 2", caud. 2" 2", tars. 7".

The outer toe is somewhat longer than the inner one. In the museum at Stuttgart as *D. levaillanti*, from the Cape, at Frankfort from West Africa.

23. *DRYMÆCA EXIMIA*, Heugl.

(Plate III. fig. 1.)

Habitu *Cisticolæ schænicolæ*, at cauda angustiore, longiore, magis graduata, coloribus ex toto lætioribus; pileo, inter-



I. von Heuglin pinx
G. Kiedemans lithog.

M & N. Hamhart imp.

Fig. 1. DRYMECA EXIMIA; Fig. 2. D. FERRUGINEA;
Fig. 3. HEMIPTERYX OLIGURA.

scapulio, scapularibus, tectricibus alarum et tertiariis nigerimis, stricte et conspicue albido marginatis, marginibus ex parte rufo lavatis; stria superciliari, genis, cervice, uropygio et lateribus corporis læte fulvo-rufescentibus, cervicis plumis medio magis rufescenti-umbrinis; remigibus fumosis, primariis extus pallide rufescenti-fulvo, secundariis magis umbrino-rufescente marginatis; omnibus intus basin versus pallide rufescenti-fulvo limbatis; rectricibus fuliginoso nigricantibus, scapis rufescentibus, subtus fuliginoso canis, strictius albo terminatis, macula anteapicali nigricante, extima pogonio externo conspicue albo-, reliquis lateraliter lato cervino fulvo marginatis; albedine apicis rectricum supra cano lavata; ciliis et loris fulvescente pallidis, macula obsoleta anteoculari fumosa; genis paulo umbrino adumbratis; gastræo fulvo induto, gula et abdomine medio pure albis; crisso et subcaudalibus niveis; tibialibus læte rufis; pectoris lateribus ex parte nigricante striolatis; rostro cervino corneo, culmine magis fuscescente; iride helvola; pedibus rubello cerinis.

Long. tot. circa 4" 3"', rostr. a fr. 4.1"', al. 1" 10"', caud. 1" 8½"', tars. 7½"—8".

A very remarkable species, from its variegated coloration. With regard to its mode of life, I can unfortunately give no information; I found it in the month of February in reeds and bushes on the Upper Gazelle River. The only specimen obtained by me was sold by the Museum of Stuttgart to that of Berlin; it is an adult male. In form and marking it most resembles *D. lineocapilla*, Gould, from Australia, but has longer tarsi and wings, and rather shorter, narrower rectrices. Vertex, mantle, greater wing-coverts, and tertials deeply black, the latter rather brownish-black, all with white margins, partly washed with reddish-yellow, which, however, in the feathers of the vertex and mantle only run down the sides, and do not reach the tip; cheeks, lores, eyelids, nape, and rump bright rusty-red, the latter more rusty-yellow; the middle of the feathers of the nape indistinctly brown. Lower surface bright reddish-yellow, lighter in front; middle of the neck whitish; middle of the abdomen, under tail-coverts and vent snow-white. Outer and inner toes (without the claw) almost of equal length, the former perhaps somewhat shorter. It cannot be confounded with any other North-east-African species.

[To be continued.]